New Frontiers in Institutional Repositories: IR Development at Georgia Tech

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IR @ GT – Context & Planning

- Organizational commitment to Digital Initiatives in Library strategic plan, 2002

- A major objective: "digital publishing program to promote open standards for faculty and students, resulting in durable, functional digital works accessible worldwide."

- Funding allocated to hire Digital Initiatives Manager and Assoc. Director, Digital and Technical Services. Hired Jan. 2003 and Dec. 2002 respectively

IR @ GT – Context & Planning: 2003

- DTS divisional and DI Dept. strategic plans completed

- IR based on information needs of users
- Systems/policies - capture, dissemination, access, preservation
- Campus digital initiatives, promote open source approaches
- Capture "at-risk" digital intellectual output
- Create digital resources from existing library resources
- Staffing "moves" in Digital Initiatives and Systems Depts…

IR @ GT - Drivers

- Technology development and "born-digital" prevalence
    - concern: losing information found on unit web sites, not "sent" to Library

- Library budget growth: $1.2 mill (fy04) and $750,000 (fy03)
    - vote of confidence, Library can deliver on managing digital information

- GT mission: knowledge creation, transfer, and library's role

- Interdisciplinary research and cross-disciplinary data mining
    - (Digital Repository, YES and "Silos" - NO)

IR @ GT – Drivers, cont'd

- Campus initiatives: learning objects (7 major projects)

- Acceptance / interest in ETD @ GT program

- Growth in papers, reports, lectures – units creating "online libraries" (but not really)
  - GTRI, other research centers reports and paper series
  - Depts.' working papers series, conference papers
  - i.e. Sam Nunn Policy Forum – speech videos and transcripts
  - Ca. 50 examples inventoried (found on a GT web site)

Promoting value-added library services in a digital context:

■ Adding value to academic depts.' disparate attempts to share information through…

  – **Standard metadata to discover resources inter-institutionally**
  – **Digital preservation schemes and approaches**
  – **Online access over time, across technologies (open source)**
  – **Searching/knowledge mining (cross-disciplinary discovery)**

IR @ GT: "Fast-tracking"

- Why?

  Because despite users telling us they would like to have an IR, they, and we, don't really know how they will interact with it.

- Response to this dilemma?

  We built a "pilot" IR asap to observe users' interaction with it and gain their feedback re: their needs

IR @ GT: "Fast-tracking, cont'd

■ Pressure to fast-track?

<u>You bet</u>. We need to produce and show the value of Digital Initiatives program. With $1.95 million added to library budget in 2 years, we need to show ROI to resource allocators

IR @ GT: Software Selection

■ Formed library team to review, assess, select IR software, and review "functional issues":

- Preservation/administrative metadata handling
- Subject headings / controlled vocabulary use, and end user utility or need
- Submission process (user friendliness)
- Policy issues, i.e. who has rights regarding access, submission, review, etc.

IR @ GT: Software Selection, cont'd

- Some <u>more</u> functional issues reviewed:

  – Searching, basic vs. advanced
  – Fiscal costs
  – Open source as a mission, a driver
  – Long-term preservation, i.e. formats and migration approaches. Preservation Network possibilities.

IR @ GT: Software Selection cont'd

- Reviewed DSpace and EPrints more closely

  - *GT ECE / Library: DSpace explorations of learning object mgmt.*

  - Pilot implementation, Spring 2004
  - Public launch of SMARTech, August 1, 2004

    - http://SMARTech.gatech.edu

IR @ GT

Overall Objective:

- *Not to achieve perfection, but rather to start down the "IR road." Adjust along the way.*

- *Our goals must be obtainable within the ability, energy, and time available from our programmers and managers.*

Thank you! – (contact info:)

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